Optimal use of rain water

860. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a map/projection chart of water scarce regions in the country;

(b) the steps taken to increase water availability in such regions; and

(c) the steps taken to store and use river water optimally, particularly during monsoon seasons?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Society under the Ministry of Water Resources, as a part of its studies of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development prepared by Government in 1980 has carried out water balanced studies of river basins/sub-basins of the country keeping in view the scenario of ultimate stage of water resources development in these basins. NWDA has identified 11 river basins/sub-basins as water deficit river basins. NWDA after the above studies has identified 30 links under NPP (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Report with a view to transfer water from water surplus areas to the water deficit regions for optimum utilization of water resources of the country. The link proposal envisages construction of storage reservoirs, canals and various other hydraulic structures with a view to achieve irrigation, flood control, hydropower, navigation benefits etc. NWDA has completed Feasibility Report for 14 links under Peninsular River Development Component and 2 links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component.

Narmada Dam Project

861. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lately construction work on the Narmada Dam Project particularly on the Rs.2400 crore Maheshwar hydroelectric project at Mandleshwar in Madhya Pradesh has started in violation of

the conditions relating to relief and rehabilitation and those related to environmental clearance;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, to ensure that conditions precedent are fulfilled before going ahead with such constructions; and

(c) the present status of the project works?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) 400 MW Maheshwar Hydro Electric Project on river Narmada is being implemented by a private promoter namely, Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Limited (SMHPCL), subject to fulfillment of certain conditions, including submission of a comprehensive Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) plan and completion of R&R work six months prior of commencement of submergence. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has directed Government of Madhya Pradesh to get immediate suspension of construction work at Maheshwar Hydroelectric Project due to non-submission of R&R policy by the SMHPCL.

The Construction work was suspended from June 2006, due to order issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Thereafter, the SMHPCL obtained interim stay order from the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh in June, 2006 itself and the work on the dam and spillways has re-commenced.

Increase of height of Babhali Project by Maharashtra

862. SHRIMATI N.P.DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh about the unauthorized increase in the height of Babhali Project by Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the respresentation submitted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) what action Government have taken to convince the State Government of Maharashtra to stop unauthorized construction of Babhali Project;